

VARIABLE SCALES, VARIABLE CONCLUSIONS: PEREGRINE PREY IN GREENLAND

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Patterns in nature often depend upon the scales at which they are viewed, and many ecological phenomena are scale-dependent in both time and space. Birds were surveyed in West Greenland around six peregrine eyries and at six sites where no peregrines were known to nest to determine the effect of peregrines on passerine densities. The results of such analyses were found to depend upon the spatial scale at which an analysis was conducted. However, the patterns observed were robust through time. We urge other investigators to be alert for similar scale-dependent phenomena.

RANGING DISTANCES OF GREENLAND PEREGRINES DURING THE BREEDING SEASON

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To estimate the area used by Peregrine Falcons during the breeding season in Westcentral Greenland, we radio-marked six adult males and four adult females. Location estimates of marked falcons were obtained from a Cessna 182 airplane, with one forward and side-pointing Yagi antenna, by homing to the signal. The location of the aircraft, while it passed around the radio signal, was estimated from the Global Positioning Satellite system using a Garmin 100 AVD receiver. Three of the nine nests at which peregrines were marked were unsuccessful. Seventy-four percent of the 336 total location estimates were obtained within 1.0 km of birds' eyries. Beyond 1.0 km, one female was detected at only 1–2 km, one male at 2–3 km, one male and one female at 3–4 km, one male no more than 4–5 km, three males and one female from 5–6 km, and one male between 6 and 7 km from their eyries.

AGE IDENTIFICATION OF NESTLING AND FLEDGLING BURROWING OWLS

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Two captive hatched Burrowing Owls were photographed each two days during the nestling and fledgling period to document exact age by down and feather progression. Photos will be displayed with other pertinent information.

FALCONIFORMES FROM TUXTEPEC, OAXACA, MEXICO

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Considering avian diversity in Mexico, Oaxaca is one of the richest states in this country with both resident and migratory species. In the area of Tuxtepec, Oax. where a huge dam was recently built (about two years ago), a study has been carried out by people from the National University of Mexico (UNAM), who in 1989–90 reported the presence of 15 different raptor species in the area. The observations done in this study, in November 1991 and June 1992, report the presence of eight species previously unrecorded for the area. Considering the species previously reported and the ones found in this study, the total (23 species) represents 43% of the Falconiformes known for Mexico and approximately 8% of the species number known for the world. The results of this study show that this area can be of great importance for raptor biologists because of the number of species, both resident and migratory, that occur in the locality. Finally, it is important to mention that a lot of research on the different species is still needed in order to understand their biology, and ensure their permanence in the natural environment.

BREEDING ECOLOGY OF THE CRESTED CARACARA (*POLYBORUS PLANCUS*) IN THE CAPE REGION, B.C.S., MEXICO

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The Cape Region of Baja California Sur has a permanent and abundant breeding population of Crested Caracaras (*Polyborus plancus*). Nevertheless, several changes have occurred the last two years in the region, changes that are affecting the nesting places of Crested Caracaras. For this reason, a study on the ecology of caracaras in the Cape Region began in 1987. During 1990, we studied the breeding ecology of the species, and the results of the study are presented here. Censuses along transect show that population densities of Crested Caracara range from 1.12 to 4.82 birds/km², being densest at the end of the breeding period. The breeding season was extended from February to August. The Crested Caracara nested mainly on cardon (*Pachycereus* spp., 76%), but it also used yucca (*Yucca valida*, 9.5%), teso (*Olneya tesota*, 4.7%), palmera (*Washingtonia robusta*, 4.7%), and paloverde (*Cercidium microphyllum*, 4.7%) ($\chi^2 = 27.5$; g.l. = 1; $P < 0.001$; $N = 21$). Nest height ranged from 3.5 to 8.5 m ($N = 22$). The mean height of vegetal species used to support nests was 8.68 ± 2.85 m ($N = 21$). The chamizo *Ruellia peninsularis* (69.2%) and alfilerillo *Condalia globosa* (61.5%) were the most used plants to build the nest. Nest re-use in 1990 was of 84.62% ($N = 13$). Eighty-three percent of the nests used during 1990 were successful ($N = 16$). The clutch size was two